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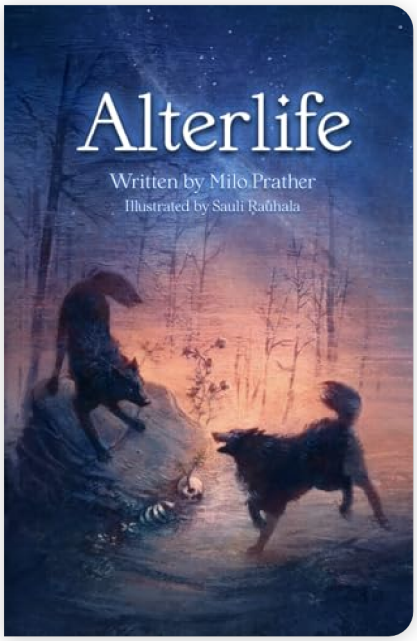

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Milo Prather, Sauli Rauhala (Illustrator)

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Genres Poetry

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Published December 19, 2025

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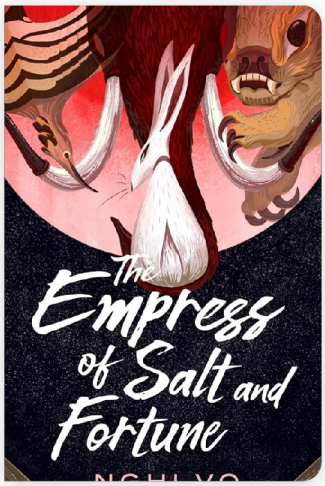

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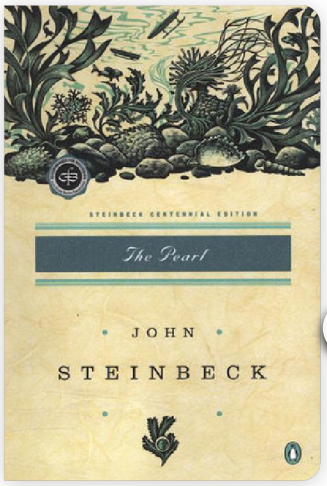

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Read January 1, 2026

Girl...

poetry young-adult

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Aj
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★★☆☆☆ December 30, 2025

While this isn't the worse poetry I have ever read, it wasn't great. Still very angsty with little depth, although definitely more than AOS. I also find myself confused by the point of many of the poems. I read them over and over but couldn't make heads or tails of them. One aspect that I liked was the ecological themes. Prather clearly loves the natural environment.

poetry

14 likes

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Adelaide
34 reviews
11 followers
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★★☆☆☆ January 11, 2026

Milo... babe...
Some of these were genuinely REALLY good. The first page of "Hellhound's maw" (I didn't see the need for the second page of it), "Rinse and Repeat", "The Episode"—genuinely really good poems that reflected horrible experiences and heartfelt emotions. Others were a bit tougher; like, I had to Google two words in the opening stanza of "Excoriation" and I STILL don't know what it was trying to say, but the other two stanzas were great. "Lean Into" was cute! I couldn't tell you whether it was an open letter to fans or to a... certain someone important to him, but either way, I liked the vibe of it.
Most of them made use of my English degree as I tried to analyze and understand what the point was. I was over here with half-eaten Haribo Goldbears in my mouth, staring at my screen, asking, "What the fuck did he just say?" at least once every three pages. As intellectuals who hate the modern attitude of "lol why use big word when little word do trick", I get it, big words sound nice! But when it sounds shoehorned in just for the sake of using big, pretty words?? Broootherrrr.... PLEASE be so for real. It's okay! You can say the "basic" word you mean! Nobody is going to get mad at you!
So, I dunno. 2.25 stars, I guess. I continue to follow his writing career with bated breath. I'm in far too deep to back out now.

11 likes

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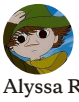

Alyssa Ramroop
45 reviews
1 follower
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★★★☆☆ January 4, 2026

2.5/5
There were positives and negatives. The positives did not outweigh the negatives. It's very clear that the author hasn't learned at all from the feedback given on his debut book and it shows through his essay and this piece. I don't have a lot of high hopes on the upcoming second edition of his debut. Never take a second chance to make a first impression.

9 likes

Like Comment •••

Sarah Bean
36 reviews

★★☆☆☆ January 9, 2026

Certainly not good, but not quite unsalvageable. I hope he takes his time with the next work that comes out, but I can't say this has given me more faith.

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Nijhia
63 reviews
6 followers
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★★★☆☆ January 20, 2026

milo has a lot of interesting ideas, some of the visuals with words are good. the problem is that milo is writing how he thinks a poet should be instead of finding his voice, he is not a good writer and passion doesn't make for good books or poetry.

I think he would have done better without the hyper specific ecology knowledge. not only is it used wrong in some places, but some of the words are used improperly for something else.

milo, please get an editor. sauli is not good enough and neither are you. all of these poems could have been pushed farther, pushed deeper and I think putting a lot of poems without cohesion you need to focus on themes. stop focusing on the art, the art is not helping the writing if the writing is bad.

I gave the extra star because I know you are trying.

PLEASE, GET AN EDITOR.

5 likes

Like Comment •••

McKenzie
25 reviews
Follow

★★☆☆☆ January 16, 2026

look. It's not bad per say but for a 59 page poetry book it's hard to get through. I am well educated and yet so many of the poems contain words that are so obscure and not lay use that I had to stop. Look up the word. Still be confused. And guess and go on.

I still don't know what umbos means and it's the first word of poem. Reads like someone trying to use words they don't understand and I mean that lightly. Some of the poems are quite enjoyable and resonate on the themes of ecology. The majority of them make no sense, unfortunately.

Good try. What is your resistance against an editor? P.S. your grammar is still wrong in places. And this is a review my grammar doesn't have to be perfect.

4 likes

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Eirin
110 reviews
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★☆☆☆☆ January 21, 2026

I debated giving this two stars, because it's not all bad. There are some good phrases, a couple of okay poems, and the themes of the book are interesting (trauma expressed through nature metaphors and imagery). The art is also mostly good. But I landed on one star because despite the few positives, this reads like a bunch of first drafts.

First of all, I saw someone mention that all the poems sounds like what Milo thinks poetry is supposed to sound like, and

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Do It Lady
4 reviews
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★☆☆☆☆ January 1, 2026

Quite frankly, this comes off as unedited. The blurb on the back of the book is chalk full of grammar mistakes. Which is also present throughout the rest of the book, so, I'll comment on that in a bit.

But to start:
The sentence "the poems weave a story of introspection, recovery, and perseverance that crosses the wilderness of both the American West and Scandinavia" reads a bit awkwardly. It would be clearer to use a verb like "span" or "traverse", and to name each region more specifically (for example, "the untamed landscapes of the American West and the stark wilds of Scandinavia").

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The same issue is present in every single poem.

Scarification;
The line “before my legacy scar my skin” should read “scars” to match the singular subjects. Likewise, the sentence fragment “...scar my skin / for I cannot grow...” could be joined or punctuated for clarity. For example, a semicolon or period would help (“legacy scars my skin; for I cannot grow...”), since semicolons normally link complete clauses.

Then there's the misuse of words, again, present in every poem. For example in this poem, “prove my heights” makes no sense. Changing it to “reach my heights” or “prove my worth” would clarify the meaning.

Stratification;
The line “the giant’s tiny seed ... enclose her” should use a singular verb (“encloses”) since seed is singular.

There's semicolon in wrong places, periods in wrong places on top of the heavy the purple prose. It's almost incomprehensible.

For example: the line“armed and guarded with shields habitually blacksmithed” is just plain confusing. Replacing “habitually blacksmithed” with “habitually forged” or “regularly forged” would sound more natural. Likewise, “Umbos ward against haste” uses an obscure term (an umbo is a shield boss); if the effect is metaphorical protection, a more common word or a bit of context might help the reader follow.

Aside from that, the line breaks are awful. These poems are all written like paragraphs and it reads like the author pressed enter at random points. Each broken line must still lead logically to the next.

Actic Circle of Fire;
It will be the last poem I'll review because this rev would be 20 pages long.

Tense inconsistency is a major problem, especially this one: The poem is mostly in present tense (“I see,” “I race,” “I am enamoured”), but suddenly shifts to past in “I found my brushes... I coughed them up...”. Mixing tenses makes reading it jarring and confusing.

Then we have awkward or wrong word choice/ phrasing: “visual of the sweat” should be “sight of the sweat” or simply “sweat gleaming” to feel more natural. Also “how to best tell these tales” would read better as “how best to tell these tales,” with how the rest of the poem is written.
The line “as alike so within” is incomprehensible. Possibly intended as a play on “as above, so within” (a twist on a known proverb), but as written it is a grammatical error.
The rest of the poems have the exact same issues. All of them, subject-verb disagreement, misplaced comas and periods, misused words, incomprehensible sentences, wrong verbs/nouns, and other grammar issues.

More random grammatical slips:
“I watched the echoes of my past envelope the hemlock and spruce” should use the verb envelop (meaning “surround”) rather than the noun envelope.

“I plead the water for a taste of heaven” should read “I plead with the water for a taste of heaven,” since one typically pleads with something.

“Washing myself with the rain who promised a whisper of healing” should use “that promised” (rain isn’t a person), or simply “washing myself with the promised whisper of healing rain”.

Definitely would skip. Again, all the poems have the issues mentioned above.

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Pamela (Here to Read Books and Chew Gum)
445 reviews
67 followers

★☆☆☆☆ January 15, 2026

Art: Good
Poetry: Bad

This felt like a collection of perfectly serviceable first drafts. It's a collection of ideas for poetry that needed a lot of work and editing of a standard I'd expect for a high school homework submission.

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they should be used.

The whole collection feels like someone writing poetry who assumes that because it's "high brow" it requires "big words" so dug out the thesaurus without really thinking about how language works contextually.

I wouldn't have rated this at all, but the single star belongs to the artist, Sauli, who did a wonderful job. The design and layout of the book is a really lovely touch, and the only commendable thing.

13 likes

Like Comment •••

Sparrows flew
5 reviews
Follow

★★★★★ January 23, 2026

Unpopular opinion but I honestly really liked the poems. I know a lot of the writing choices throughout this book might be considered "cliche" but I didn't really mind to be honest; some are a bit ambiguous in wording but in my opinion we're not actually as big of an issue as some people make it out to be. I hear a lot of people saying that he is still developing his voice and I agree to an extent. There were some poems I liked less than others, but for the most part I still enjoyed reading them! My favorite one was "Lean Into". If a second book were to come out I'd definitely read it!

1 comment

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L
97 reviews
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★☆☆☆☆ February 5, 2026

Brother had a crash out so bad that the rebrand failed.

low-rating

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